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TICO registration #:1257995



Photos by Lori Chisholm

## Food Focus: Puglia

**Wednesday, October 26 – Friday, November 4, 2022**

*Join tour host Lori Chisholm on this foodie and cultural adventure to the “heel of the boot” where orecchiette pasta and primitivo wine rule the food menu and trulli houses and expansive olive groves rule the landscape. The enchanting ‘white city’ of Ostuni will be our first home base and from there we’ll move to ‘Florence of the south’, the baroque city of Lecce. Matera, Locorotondo, Grottaglie, Martina Franca and Alberobello – all are on our agenda for their beauty, their architecture or their special cuisines. Walking and food tours, artisan visits, winery and farm visits, and a cooking class are all part of the package in this as yet under-touristed region of Italia. Max 11 guests.*

**Tour Cost - LAND ONLY \$ 3745.00 CAD per person sharing twin accommodation**

(add \$145 CAD if paying by credit card)

**Single supplement \$ 445.00 CAD (sold out)**

**B = breakfast, L = lunch, T = tastings, D = dinner**

PROPOSED ITINERARY (subject to change)

### **Day 1 – Wednesday, October 26**

D

Check in to Ostuni’s beautiful, 4 star Hotel La Terra (<http://www.laterrahotel.it/en/home-en>) in time to freshen up before welcome cocktails followed by our first group dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight Ostuni.

**Day 2 – Thursday, October 27** - Ostuni

B, T, L

This morning after breakfast, we'll meet our local guide for a walking tour of Ostuni. Then, wine will become the focus for the afternoon as we enjoy a private tour and tasting at a local organic winery followed by a light lunch. Overnight Ostuni.

**Day 3 – Friday, October 28** - Martina Franca and countryside

B, T, L

This morning after breakfast, my friend Marco will escort us to a lovely masseria in the Martina Franca countryside. Renowned for their cheese production, they will teach us all we need to know (hands on!) about their specialty followed by some tasty appetizers. From the masseria we'll head to the historic centre of Martina Franca for a brief tour and a coffee break. Overnight Ostuni.

**Day 4 – Saturday, October 29** - Pezze di Greco and Alberobello

B, L

An 18<sup>th</sup> century masseria will be our first destination after breakfast today as we are going to see both modern and traditional techniques for olive oil production. Of course, tasting the oil will be a highlight! Then, we'll have a private lunch in an ancient delicatessen in Alberobello followed by a tour of this astonishing *trulli* community. Overnight Ostuni.

It's pasta day! We're going to learn straight from a nonna how to make the signature pasta shapes of

**Day 5 – Sunday, October 30** - Ostuni and Locorotondo

B, L

this region. We'll lunch on what we've made with a little local wine, then head off for a tour/walkabout of Locorotondo, a lovely little town sitting high on the Valle D'Itria landscape. Overnight Ostuni.

**Day 6 – Monday, October 31** - free day!

B

It's up to you how and where you spend the day. Local trains will get you up or down the coast to Monopoli or Polignano al Mare or Brindisi. The hotel spa may be an option and the terrace is a must. Shopping? Exploring? (Packing for tomorrow's transfer to Lecce!) Overnight Ostuni.

**Day 7 – Tuesday, November 1** - Lecce

B, L, D

After breakfast and checkout, we'll head south through the countryside to the gorgeous Baroque town Lecce stopping for a sensory wine tasting and light lunch on the way. We'll check into the Suite Hotel Santa Chiara (<https://www.santachiaralecce.it/>) with its location just steps from the cathedral. Tonight, we'll have a group dinner in a local trattoria. Overnight Lecce.

**Day 8 – Wednesday, November 2** - Lecce

B, L

Like so many cities in Italy, Lecce has its own particular food specialties. Later in the morning, we'll sample a number of these today during a city walking tour with our local guide, Antonella. Enjoy the rest of the afternoon and evening but get your bags packed for tomorrow! Overnight Lecce.

**Day 9 – Thursday, November 3** - Grottaglie and Matera

B, L, D

After breakfast and checkout, we head northwest a bit to Grottaglie, the Puglian centre for ceramics. We will observe some local artists (perhaps shop a wee bit!), enjoy a light lunch and move on to Matera

in the province of Basilicata. Matera has been named a UNESCO World Heritage Site and was the 2019 European Capital of Culture. We'll have a historical walking tour of the fascinating sassi, ancient cave dwellings still inhabited today. Then we'll check in to our stunning cave hotel complete with its own winery (<http://ilpalazzottomatera.it/>) . I'll leave you on your own to enjoy the hotel experience, then we'll gather for a cocktail followed by our farewell dinner in a great ristorante. Overnight Matera.

**Day 10 – Friday, November 4** – Bari

B

After breakfast, our final transfer will be a quick trip to Bari, the capital of Puglia and a transportation hub. You can be dropped at the train station or the airport.

**Tour cost includes:**

- 9 nights' accommodation in 4 star, centrally-located hotels
- 9 breakfasts
- Local city taxes
- Welcome cocktail, farewell cocktail
- Welcome dinner and farewell dinner, both with wine, water and coffee
- Group dinner Lecce
- 7 lunches
- winery visit with tour and tasting
- 3 farm/production visits with tours and/or tastings
- Nonna cooking experience with lunch
- 5 city walking tours with local guides
- 1 food/city tour with local guide
- All ground transportation by private coach/minivan from start (Ostuni) to end of tour (Bari)
- Guide and driver gratuities
- Dedicated tour leader throughout

**Tour cost does not include:**

- Items of a personal nature
- Air transportation and taxes
- Ground transportation to Ostuni from airport or train station
- Beverages with meals unless stated in the itinerary
- Insurance – please call the Pauwels Travel office for information